

REMARKS

In the office action mailed March 23, 2006, claims 4 and 5 have been objected as being redundant over claim 1. Claim 19 has been objected for a typographical error. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for failing to provide antecedent basis. Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 12-14 and 19 have been rejected 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.: 6,276,934 to Rackoz (hereinafter "Rackoz"). Claims 2-3 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Rackoz in view of U.S. Patent Publication No.: 2003/0228553 to Mandelkern et al. (hereinafter "Mandelkern"). Likewise, claims 6, 8, 10, and 20 have been rejected as obvious over Rackoz in view of U.S. Patent Publication No.: 2002/0118279 to Spoonhower et al. (hereinafter "Spoonhower"). Claim 15 has also been rejected as obvious over Rackoz in view of U.S. Patent No.: 5,951,284 to Lake (hereinafter "Lake"). Claim 16 has also been rejected as obvious over Rackoz in view of U.S. Patent No.: 4,568,281 to Harvey et al. (hereinafter "Harvey"). Claims 9 and 11 have been objected to from depending from a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Lastly, claim 18 has been allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant has amended claims 1-3 and 6-20 to more particularly point out the subject matter of the invention and/or to improve English syntax. Claims 4-5 have been cancelled to obviate any potential objection for redundancy of claim scope. Support for the amendment of independent claims 1-3, 6 and 18-19 to recite a reflector having a back surface with a CCD camera is found in Fig. 2 and at page 7, lines 3-11 of the specification. Claims 7-9 and 11 have also been amended to depend from claim 3 due to the cancellation of claim 5. Support for the amendment of independent claim 12 and dependent claim 13 is found in Figs. 4 and 5 as well as at page 8, lines 6-15 of the specification. Support for the amendment of claim

15 is found at page 8, lines 16-23 of the specification. Claim 16 has been amended to properly depend from claim 3 instead of claim 1. Claim 17 has been amended into dependent form to depend from claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the objections and rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, have been rectified by the present amendment. Withdrawal of the objections and 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

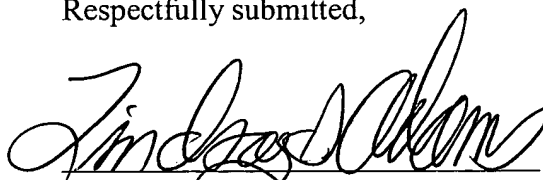
Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-17 and 19-20 are novel and nonobvious over the cited prior art. First, independent claims 1-3, 6 and 19 recite that the dental mirror include a reflector with a light transmitting aperture in which a CCD camera is positioned adjacent thereto. Moreover, these claims require that the incident portion of the CCD camera also be adjacent to and in optical communication with the light transmitting aperture. To the contrary, Rackoz alone or in combination with any of the cited secondary references does not disclose, teach or suggest a dental mirror where the CCD camera is adjacent to the reflector. Rackoz instead discloses that the CCD camera is located away from the reflector in the handle of the dental mirror thereby requiring prisms and relay lenses to convey the image from the aperture to the CCD camera. Moreover, there is nothing in the secondary references that teach or suggest altering the configuration disclosed in Rackoz. In view of the above, independent claims 1-3, 6 and 18-19 as well as dependent claims 7-8, 10, and 13-17 are patentable.

Second, independent claim 12 recites that the dental mirror includes a reflector with a light transmitting aperture where an optical fiber with its incident and illuminating portions coincide with the light transmitting aperture. In addition, claim 12 requires that the other end of the optical fiber be removably attached and in optical communication to a CCD camera that is external to the dental mirror. In a preferred embodiment, the external CCD camera is located on

the front of the visual monitor as recited in claim 13. To the contrary, Rackoz alone or in combination with any of the cited secondary references does not disclose, teach or suggest a dental mirror with a fiber optic cable attached to the reflector at one end and removably attached to an external CCD camera at the other end. Rackoz instead discloses that the CCD camera is located in the handle of the dental mirror (i.e., is internal). Moreover, there is nothing in the secondary references that teach or suggest altering the configuration disclosed in Rackoz. In view of the above, independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13-15 are patentable.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due with this amendment. However, if any fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account: 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsay S. Adams
Registration No. 36,425

Attorney for Applicant

Pitney Hardin LLP
7 Times Square
New York, NY 10036
212-297-5800